

COMM WARRIORS

JOINT SERVICE FACILITY TRAINS WARFIGHTERS ON DEPLOYMENT TASKS

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SHEPPARD AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Voice Switching Technical Training Facility here is taking great strides toward equipping and training Airmen, sailors, soldiers and Marines as well as the federal civilian force in their warfighting duties.

To enhance training, the 364th Training Squadron has incorporated hands-on expeditionary training into its curriculum. The syllabus provides communications technicians first hand knowledge of what it takes to accomplish the mission from a Joint Task Force perspective. **The new curriculum provides foundational training of voice networks services, Voice over IP and NOSC Enterprise Voice Controller crew responsibilities.**

To begin, the class goes through the Air Expeditionary Force process where students are assigned to a Unit Type Code and issued AEF ID cards. The transition from in-garrison training to expeditionary training begins.

A total of 10 days is dedicated to giving the students the exposure they need to meet UTC requirements. The first five days are aca-

demic; the latter five are in the mock-up deployed site set in the field behind the fixed training facility.

The training includes an in-depth explanation of the AEF concept and a thorough discussion is conducted on the checks and balances involved in the UTC assignment process.

The students learn to program, distribute and troubleshoot voice lines and communications services. These are provided by both legacy tactical telephone switchboards such as the SB-3865s and the Basic Access Modules of the Theater Deployable Communication/Integrated Communications Access Package equipment that's being widely employed at expeditionary sites today. Emphasis is placed on establishing reachback connectivity from a deployed to a fixed environment through bandwidth management and multiplexing equipment over the Global Information Grid. This portion of the course teaches the importance of sound infrastructure management practices at the deployed communications facility to include good cable discipline, developing and maintaining meticulous distribution records and phone directories. At the brink of completing the in-

class expeditionary training, the AEF teams receive the orders to deploy.

With the tasking in hand, the class sits in on the war plan discussion. They receive the Communications Engineering Package Annex K detailing the voice-switching network that will be set up at the deployed location. Equipped with their instructions, the students perform as much pre-deployment equipment programming and planning as possible in-garrison.

Armed with their gear, the team arrives at their location with pre-assigned duties to get initial voice communications, priority services and establish a reachback capability simultaneously. With everyone working as a team to accomplish the job, the deployment is considered a success when calls can be made from different locations at the deployed site via the reachback to the fixed site.

Today's comm warriors must be ready to meet the challenges faced in an AEF environment. Because of Sheppard's commitment to realistic training, comm Airmen are prepared to perform in any theater at any time.



The deployed site



Bringing in the gear